

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-59. (Canceled)

60. (New) A computer readable recording medium storing a program for a computer in a network to which the computer and a plurality of input-output apparatuses are connected, at least one of the input-output apparatuses having a plurality of functions, the program causing the computer to execute the steps of:

displaying a layout image of the plurality of input-output apparatus;

selectably displaying one function out of the plurality of functions;

displaying, when any function has not yet been selected, on the layout image icons of the plurality of input-output apparatuses representing the functions of the plurality of the input-output apparatuses, while, when the one function has been selected, displaying on the layout image icons of the selected functions to represent only the input-output apparatuses that have the selected functions; and

assigning a selected one of the input-output apparatuses that are represented on the layout image by the icons as an input or output apparatus for a job.

61. (New) The computer readable recording medium of claim 60, wherein the program further causes the computer to execute the steps of:

creating and storing images or lists of the layout of the plurality of input-output apparatuses with hierarchical classification;

displaying the image or the list of a higher hierarchy; and

displaying the image or the list of a lower hierarchy when a selection is made in the image or the list of the higher hierarchy.

62. (New) A computer network system comprising a computer and a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network, at least one of the input-output apparatuses having a plurality of functions, the computer network comprising:

a storage for storing a table of functional capabilities of the plurality of input-output apparatuses regarding a plurality of functions;

a display for displaying a layout image of the plurality of input-output apparatuses, and for displaying a selection screen for selecting one of the functions;

a controller for controlling the display to display, when any function has not yet been selected, on the layout image icons of the plurality of input-output apparatuses representing the functions of the plurality of the input-output apparatuses, while, when the one function has been selected, displaying on the layout image icons of the selected functions to represent only the input-output apparatuses that have the selected functions, and for assigning a selected one of the input-output apparatuses that are represented on the layout image by the icons as an input or output apparatus for a job.

63. (New) A method for assigning one of a plurality of input-output apparatuses in a network to which a computer and the plurality of input-output apparatuses are connected, at least one of the input-output apparatuses having a plurality of functions, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a layout image of the plurality of input-output apparatus;

selectably displaying one function out of the plurality of functions;

displaying, when any function has not yet been selected, on the layout image icons of the plurality of input-output apparatuses representing the functions of the plurality of the input-output apparatuses, while, when the one function has been selected, displaying on the layout image icons of the selected functions to represent only the input-output apparatuses that have the selected functions; and

assigning a selected one of the input-output apparatuses that are represented on the layout image by the icons as an input or output apparatus for a job.

64. (New) A computer readable recording medium storing a program for a computer in a network to which the computer and a plurality of input-output apparatuses are connected, the program causing the computer to execute the steps of:

displaying a layout image of the plurality of input-output apparatuses;

selectably displaying on the layout image names of users of the input-output apparatuses at the locations of the layout image that respectively correspond to actual locations of the users;

selectably displaying on the layout image only the input-output apparatuses that relate to the selected user;

assigning selected one of the displayed input-output apparatuses as an input or output apparatus for a job.

65. (New) The computer readable recording medium of claim 64, the program further causing the computer to execute the steps of:

creating and storing images or lists of the layout of the plurality of input-output apparatuses with hierarchical classification;

displaying the image or the list of a higher hierarchy; and

displaying the image or the list of a lower hierarchy when a selection is made in the image or the list of the higher hierarchy.

66. (New) A computer network system comprising a computer and a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network, the computer network comprising:

a storage for storing a table of users of each of the plurality of input-output apparatuses

a display for displaying a layout image of the plurality of input-output apparatuses, and for displaying a selection screen for selecting one of the users;

a controller for controlling the display to selectably displaying on the layout image names of users of the input-output apparatuses at the locations of the layout image that respectively correspond to actual locations of the users, and to selectably displaying on the layout image only the input-output apparatuses that relate to the selected user, and for

assigning selected one of the displayed input-output apparatuses as an input or output apparatus for a job.

67. (New) A computer readable recording medium storing a program for an image forming apparatus connected to a network, the program causes the image forming apparatus to execute the steps of:

- (a) determining whether the image forming apparatus is capable of carrying out a job;
- (b) displaying icons on a layout image, the icons being for output apparatuses that are able to substitute for function(s) of the image forming apparatus to execute the job;
- (c) automatically selecting an output apparatus that substitutes the functions(s) of the image forming apparatus for the job;
- (d) distinguishably displaying the icons of the selected output apparatus from the icons of remaining ones of the output apparatuses on the layout image; and
- (e) allowing a user to select one of the icons corresponding to the remaining ones of the output apparatuses to alter the selected output apparatus; and
- (f) assigning the selected one of the output apparatuses as a substitution of the image forming apparatus.

68. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 67, wherein in the step (c), the output apparatus is selected to be the one closest to the image forming apparatus among the output apparatus that are able to substitute for the function(s) of the image forming apparatus.

69. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 67, wherein in the step (a), the determination is made based on whether the function(s) required to execute the job exceeds to the functions of the image forming apparatus or not.

70. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 67, wherein in the step (a), the determination is made based on whether the time required to execute the job by the image forming apparatus exceeds to a prescribed time.

71. (New) An image forming apparatus connected to a network, comprising:
a storage for storing table of substitutable output apparatuses regarding the functions of the image forming apparatus;
a display for layout image of the output apparatus; and
a controller for carrying out the steps of:
(a) determining whether the image forming apparatus is capable of carrying out a job;
(b) displaying, based on the table stored in the storage, icons on the layout image, the icons being for the output apparatuses that are able to substitute for function(s) of the image forming apparatus to execute the job;
(c) automatically selecting an output apparatus that substitutes the functions(s) of the image forming apparatus for the job;
(d) distinguishably displaying the icons of the selected output apparatus from the icons of remaining ones of the output apparatuses on the layout image; and
(e) allowing a user to select one of the icons corresponding to the remaining ones of the output apparatuses to alter the selected output apparatus; and
(f) assigning the selected one of the output apparatuses as a substitution of the image forming apparatus.

72. (New) A method for substituting output of a job from an image forming apparatus connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:
(a) determining whether the image forming apparatus is capable of carrying out a job;
(b) displaying icons on a layout image, the icons being for output apparatuses that are able to substitute for function(s) of the image forming apparatus to execute the job;
(c) automatically selecting an output apparatus that substitutes the functions(s) of the image forming apparatus for the job;
(d) distinguishably displaying the icons of the selected output apparatus from the icons of remaining ones of the output apparatuses on the layout image; and
(e) allowing a user to select one of the icons corresponding to the remaining

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ones of the output apparatuses to alter the selected output apparatus; and

(f) assigning the selected one of the output apparatuses as a substitution of the image forming apparatus.